

I want to go on record as opposed to any further changes in the broadcast ownership rules. Changing previously enacted regulations in other commodity areas, such as electric power and communications, has in fact promoted single ownership over competition and I believe it will do the same in the broadcast industry.

The last (20) or so years of deregulation indicates only a brief period of increased competition. Over a very short time the true innovators are absorbed by larger institutions. The result, more power over the "free" market in fewer hands.

Perhaps the most important aspect as to why changing the rules is a bad idea is the loss of a free press. It is my firm belief that were it not for a free press, this country would not have enjoyed the freedoms given to us by constitution for very long. A free press is the only thing that keeps government halfway honest (it is the fourth branch of government if you will). The proposed rule changes would allow one owner to dominate all forms of media in relatively large geographic areas thus destroying diversity of news. This is almost guaranteed to happen.

Regards
T. Alessi